

LEHIGH PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

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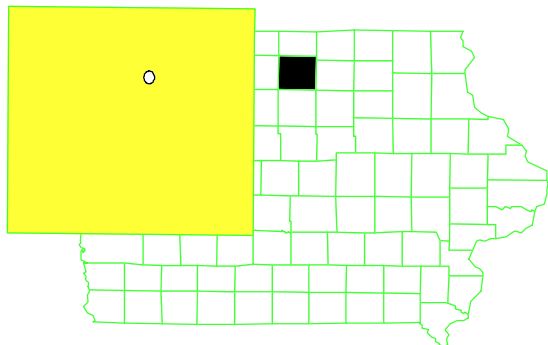
EPA ID# IAD005288634

EPA Region 7

City: Northern section of Mason
City

County: Cerro Gordo County

Other Names:



SITE DESCRIPTION

The Lehigh Portland Cement Company owns and operates this portland cement processing facility on approximately 150 acres in the northern section of Mason City. The facility has been in operation since 1911. The southern side of the site is bordered by 25th Street, and a small residential area is located to the north of the site. The site is composed of abandoned limestone quarries and mine tailings piles. Waste kiln dust, a by-product in the manufacturing of cement, has been discarded in piles throughout the facility, and a large quantity also was disposed of directly into two of the four abandoned quarries on the property. The quarries are filled with water and have drained into Calmus Creek directly south of the site. In 1984, the Iowa Department of Water, Air, and Waste Management (WAWM) conducted a comprehensive study of Calmus Creek and found contaminants that may have come from Blue Waters Pond, one of the quarries on the Lehigh site. Another NPL site, the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company, is situated immediately south of the site and is separated from it by Calmus Creek. An estimated 31,000 people obtain drinking water from public and private wells within 3 miles of the site. Wells are the sole source of drinking water in the area. A small subdivision of about 300 residents is located a mile north of the site. The Winnebago River, within 3 miles downstream of the site, is used for recreational activities, especially sport fishing.

Site Responsibility:

This site is being addressed through Federal, State, and potentially responsible parties' actions. Threats and Contaminants

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/88

Final Date: 08/30/90

Deleted Date: 06/30/93

THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS

Groundwater on site is contaminated with heavy metals including arsenic, as well as elevated pH levels caused by the former process waste disposal practices at the site. However, no significant levels of contaminants were found in off-site municipal, or private drinking water wells. Sulfates, and elevated pHs were detected in Arch Pond and Blue Waters Pond, both on the Lehigh site. Calmus Creek is polluted, and people who use the creek for recreation or who may eat fish from it could be at risk. The pH level of soil, sediments, and surface water of the quarry is high enough to be considered above normal; therefore, direct contact with these substances could be a health hazard. If the contaminant plume migrates from Calmus Creek into the Cedar Valley Aquifer, the private wells may become contaminated and could pose a health hazard to people who use them.

CLEANUP APPROACH

Response Action Status

Initial Action: After the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) found that surface water contamination in the creek was related to contaminants at the site, a weir was placed in the southeastern corner to control water elevations, because one of the quarries overflows during heavy rainfall. Lehigh installed three monitoring wells and sampled groundwater and surface water.

Entire Site: The EPA selected a remedy which includes draining the quarry ponds, treating the extracted water before discharging it, and consolidating and/or capping all the cement kiln dust, and installing dewatering wells, if necessary. The design of the remedy started in late 1992. The remedial action was initiated in December 1993. The portion of the Remedial Action to construct clay caps over the CKD was completed in 1997. Other remedial action activities are ongoing.

Site Facts: In 1985, the State issued an Administrative Order, requiring Lehigh to conduct a hydrogeological investigation of the quarry. In 1989, the State issued another Administrative Order, requiring Lehigh to conduct a study to determine the type and extent of contamination on the site. In 1992, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order for Lehigh to implement the selected remedy for the site.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



SITE REPOSITORY



Mason City Public Library, 225 Second
Street, Mason City, IA 50401

Superfund Records Center
901 N. 5th St.
Kansas City, KS 66101
Mail Stop SUPR
(913)551-4038

REGIONAL CONTACTS

SITE MANAGER:

Paul Roemerman

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

(913) 551-7694

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COORDINATOR:

PHONE NUMBER:

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

STATE CONTACT:

Robert Drustrup

PHONE NUMBER:

(515) 281-8900

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

STATE:

IA

07CM

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

02

EPA ORGANIZATION:

SFD-MOKS/SUPR

MODIFICATIONS